

# *Educational Psychology*

## NEWSLETTER

## December 2025

### DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

- School Counselor of the Year
- Published QRP
- AASP Conference
- Kayenta Trip
- Gold Axe Recipient

### FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

- Dr. Evan Engle-Newman

### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

- Congratulations Graduates!

### UPCOMING CONFERENCES

- 1/14 APA Proposals Due
- 2/2-2/3 AzSCA Conference
- 2/24-2/27 NASP Convention
- 4/9-4/11 ACA Conference
- 4/8-4/12 AERA Annual Meeting

### UNIVERSITY DATES

- 12/12 Last day of the term
- 12/12 COE Commencement at 10 am
- 12-25-1/1 University Closed

### CAMPUS EVENTS

- 12/3 Let's Talk
- Weekly Zen Den Hours

### CULTURE SPOTLIGHT

- SAD Awareness Month  
Happy Holidays!

### School Counselor of the Year Finalist

One of our 2019 alumnas, Sammi Borders, recently won Salt Lake City School District's 2026 School Counselor of the Year. In addition, she was also 1 out of 4 people nominated for Utah School Counselor of the year. Congratulations, Sammi!



### Published QRP

Congratulations to Jacquie Bassford who recently had her QRP paper titled "[Disruptive Behavior Disorders and Trauma in Children: Potential Implicit Biases in Diagnosis?](#)" published in the Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma. The study examined if children with preexisting trauma had differing rates of disruptive behavior disorders (DBDs) based on race and sex. She found that Black or African American female youth had higher rates of DBDs than White female youth and Asian youth had lower rates of DBDs than White youth. Jacquie says that a key takeaway is that there is a vital need for addressing cultural myths and biases as well as using a trauma-informed lens during assessment and diagnosis.





## DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

### AASP CONFERENCE

Several faculty and students attended the Arizona Association of School Psychologists conference in early November. In fact, NAU was well represented at AASP! There were 33 current faculty, past faculty, current students, and alumni from NAU present. Here are some of the highlights:

- A first year Flagstaff student, Jack Algier, presented a poster. See top photo (left to right: Ben Iacobelli, Rhiannon Wotring, Brooke Monsevais, Jack Algier, Dr. Britt Landis, and Dr. Kathy Bohan).
- A third year North Valley student, Sylvie George, won the AASP Minority Scholarship. See second photo (right to left: Dr. Marianne Fillhouer, Sylvie George, Sylvie's family).
- One of our frequent practicum and internship supervisors, Dawn Trueblood, won School Psychologist of the year. See third photo.
- NAU was well represented at AASP! There were 33 current faculty, past faculty, current students, and alumni from NAU present. See 4th photo.



### Kayenta Service Learning Trip

The School Psychology faculty and students were busy in November. They also attended a service learning trip to Kayenta Unified School District. Dr. Kathy Bohan, Dr. Marianne Fillhouer, and Professor Dahana Zamora supervised 10 students from North Valley and Flagstaff who provided evaluations for students in Kayenta. The students who attended are Crystal Becenti, Courtney Blake, Tyler Combs, Savannah DeBlieck, Emma De Vries, Allison Huffman, Emily, Ben Iacobelli, Brooke Monsevais, and Rhiannon Wotring.



### Gold Axe Winner

Congratulations to Chantal Valpey, an Applied Human Behavior senior! Chantal is a recipient of the prestigious Gold Axe Award. This award is given to seniors who have made an extraordinary impact in the community. Chantal is a Senior Advisor and Testing Liaison and she hosts volunteer/community events. She is also very involved in her children's school. On top of all of this, Chantal has maintained a 4.0. She says this process has helped to reflect and realize how meaningful it is to balance school, work, and parenting while showing her kids what consistency and dedication look like. Chantal selected one of our part-time faculty members, Dr. Angel Branch Moore, as her Educator of Influence.







## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

This month we are spotlighting Dr. Evan Engle-Newman, an Assistant Clinical Professor at the North Valley campus. Dr. Engle-Newman's work has included working with kids, supporting individuals in the Queer Community, and trying to normalize the human experience. "I have extensive training in the realm of Play Therapy and find love to infuse play and vulnerability into my work as a professor, counselor, and supervisor. I find that I am most successful in my roles if I can find ways to make it fun and enjoyable as play is one of my core values. My research has focused on the use of vulnerability in the classroom as well as learning about counseling experiences for those with different sexual and affectional identities. The counseling relationship is so important, so I hope the way I attempt to model it through my teaching and supervision while researching its importance, creates long-lasting change in others' lives as it has mine. I am so grateful for my students and their curiosity, humility, bravery, and honesty as I think it's what makes them wonderful counselors and humans."

Outside of his professional work, Dr. Engle-Newman values his relationships. "Some relationships that are most important to me are those with my family, my most amazing husband, our four pets (all pictured) Iris, Apollo, Milo, and Sasha, and my best friends. During the summers, I live in Colorado with my folks so we can have time to be outside, hike mountains, raft, garden, and see my family who is all in Colorado. When I'm not outside because of weather I am a "gay"mer who enjoys a variety of computer and console games with my all-time favorites being Hades and Stardew Valley. I also love playing tabletop games, doing puzzles, and making art."



Dr. Engle-Newman



# CONGRATULATIONS



## **Applied Human Behavior, BS**

Ananya Akula  
Jaylynn Aragon  
Jordan Arman  
Anutza Bellissimo  
Avonelle Flint  
Elia Hernandez  
Jennavive Johnson  
Brody Kinnane  
Chelsee Kolterman  
Devin McKinley  
Heather Miranda  
Gwendolyn Payne  
Makaila Quinones  
Victoria Royster  
Jasmine Rundall  
Jolinda Salt  
Naelani Santana  
Renee Stedman  
Marley Tapley  
Chelsea Thebeau  
**Chantal Valpey**  
Katherine Ware  
Melissa Woody  
Catherine Yazzie

## **Clinical Mental Health Counseling, MA**

Laurel Caplan  
Alexis Conyers  
Esteban Jasso  
Lynne MacVean  
Camryn Marshall  
Chloe Ramirez  
Francisco Romero  
Isabella Staines  
Jessica Szczesny

## **Human Relations, MEd**

Taylor Brestel  
Carolina Gallegos Rios  
Kevin Peterson  
Sol Quintero  
Abril Rocha-Teran

## **Combined Counseling/ School Psychology, PhD**

Michaela Bedwell  
Cody Goforth

## **Counseling - Student Affairs, MEd**

Shauna Brunea

## **School Counseling, MEd**

Kellen Donovan







## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Gear up for Spring 2026 Conferences!

- 2026 [APA Convention](#) proposals are due on January 14th. The convention will be held August 6-8 in Washington, DC
- The [Arizona School Counselors Association \(AZSCA\) conference](#) will be February 2-3 in Fort McDowell at the We-Ko-Pa Casino. Registration ends on January 23.
- The [NASP Annual Convention](#) will be held February 24-27 in Chicago. The last day to register for a discounted price is January 7.
- The [ACA Annual Conference](#) will be held April 9-11 in Columbus, Ohio.
- The [AERA Annual Meeting](#) will be held April 8-12 in Los Angeles.

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## ACADEMIC DATES + DEADLINES

- 12/12 Last day of the term
- 12/12 COE Commencement at 10 am
- 12-25-1/1 University Closed

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## CAMPUS EVENTS

- 12/3 Let's Talk | Stop by the Health Promotion Office from 3:30 to 5 pm to talk to a behavioral health professional to learn more about resources on campus.
- 12/9 [Working with Client of Differing Ideologies](#) | In person in North Valley room 251 and on zoom at 5 pm. | Dr. Ramakrishna will present on helping counselors engage empathetically in a divisive world.
- Zen Den | Every Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 8 am to 5 pm drop by the Health Promotion "Zen Den" to take advantage of stress management resources.

**NAU  
Events**

**Flagstaff  
Events**

**Phoenix  
Events**

**Tucson  
Events**

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## CULTURE

December is Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) awareness month. This is fitting, as more people may experience SAD in December since this month brings us the darkest day of the year on the winter solstice. To combat SAD, get outside, exercise, and socialize!

*Wishing you a restful break and happy holidays!*

